

**In the United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Serial Number: 09/697,463  
Application Filed: October 26, 2000  
Applicant(s): Robert S. Namba  
Application Title: Safety Guide for Surgical Placement of Sharp Instruments  
Examiner/GAU: LoAn H. Thanh / 3763

Mailed: July 3, 2003

At: Grass Valley, CA 95945

**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Sir:

This is a division of Serial Number 09/697,463, first filed on October 26, 2000. In response to the Office Letter mailed April 7, 2003;

We respectfully request that Application 09/697,463 be issued as a patent. We have submitted under separate cover a Fee for Issue of Patent Application 09/697,463.

Mr. Robert S. Namba has assigned the Patent Application No. 09/697,463 to Robert S. Namba and Joseph J. Spranza. We present herein a Recordation Form and an Assignment of Invention and Patent Application, complete with Notary Public acknowledgment.

Herein, we present, pro se, an Application for Division of Patent No. 09/697,463. We respectfully request that the patent from Patent Application No. 09/697,463 be issued as a "Parent" and that this Divisional Application be co-pending.

We present herein:

Transmittal Letter,  
Patent Application Disclosure,  
Specification,

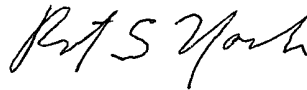
Drawings, (Informal)  
Claims, (New)  
Abstract,  
Filing Fee,  
Fee Transmittal Form,  
Small Entity Declaration, and  
Postcard.

We hope that our submission is in order and thank you for any constructive help  
in making claims of this application, allowable.



Joseph J. Spranza, III

Grass Valley, CA



Robert S. Namba

Corona Del Mar, CA